EDITORIAL
On "PUB POWER"
Our Editor-in-Chief addresses misguided intersectional generalizations **page 4**

FEATURES
From where we sit
Four international students share views on life on the Hill **page 8**

SPORTS
Three point play
Men's basketball, following split weekend, earns #3 seed for NESCACs **page 16**

The Spectator

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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

"PUB POWER" group aims to address perceived white upper-class hegemony

by Will Kaback '20
Managing Editor

This week, between 11:30 AM and 1 PM, regular patrons of The Little Pub (a time commonly known as "Pub Lunch") might have noticed an unfamiliar dynamic. Such a divergence from the Pub's expected lunchtime normalcy is the result of a Facebook group called "PUB POWER"; the group has set a goal of disrupting the typical demographic makeup of the space.

According to the group's description, PUB POWER aims to "have as many women possible attend pub lunch in order to dismantle [the] hegemony and reclaim the space as open to all." They add, "Historically, white, upper class, able-bodied males have dominated and claimed many 'public spaces' as their own. Here, at Hamilton College, the Little Pub Lunch serves as a prime example of a space occupied solely by men."

Although the group acknowledges that any detrimental actions or tendencies of the white, upper class, and able-bodied men who tend to frequent Pub Lunch may be "unintentional", the group asserts that their dominance over the space "makes women, alongside other LGBTQIA+ and POC members of our community feel inferior, unwelcomed, and outnumbered."

According to screenshots obtained by *The Spectator*, the Facebook group appears to have an active following. Posts encouraging members to "smash the patriarchy" achieved upwards of 20 reactions, while group organizers, Irina Rojas '18 and Ysabel Coss '18, used the forum to share galvanizing messages of support after a "strong" first day turnout.

Ashley Huntington '20, an active member of PUB POWER, says that the Facebook group currently has 489 members and that it is "gaining momentum" and "the word is spreading" to women around campus. She hopes that turnout continues to improve in the latter half of the week.

Huntington traces the origins of the group back to the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Baltimore, Maryland that seven Women and Gender Studies majors attended in November. Listening to a panel of women speak on the topic of feminist activism, Huntington says that she "immediately thought about the mostly all-men turnout during Pub Lunch."

In the past, Huntington says that she and her friends had entered the Pub intending to have lunch, only to "immediately turn around and go eat somewhere else." She calls this a reaction to the "spatial phenomena" where "women do not feel welcome in the space, along with people of color and LGBTQIA+ members."

Leili Aliyari '20, another group member, echoes many of Huntington's sentiments. To her, the purpose of the group is "restoring balance to the campus community and turning the Pub from a space solely dominated by mostly white male athletes, where women and people of color felt intimidated, to a space that is open to all members of this campus." In her experience attending Pub Lunch this week, she said that turnout was "fantastic" and that "even though I felt a bit anxious before walking in, I saw a lot of women there which was empowering."

Another factor motivating PUB POWER members to attend Pub Lunch this week? The quality of the food. Aliyari says the food is "really good" and Huntington adds that it is a great space "to socialize and to eat with friends."

Huntington says that some Pub Lunch regulars have noticed the shifting demographics. She says, "I was talking to a guy in line and he was saying how much more women were here, usually it was '90 percent' men."

Although there have been no confrontations between Pub regulars and PUB POWER members regarding the influx of women at lunch, Huntington does note that a few have taken issue with their traditional seating patterns being disrupted. She says that on Monday, a "group of guys" approached her friends' table and asked them to "move upstairs since that was 'their' table."

In response to this incident, Huntington says she "felt angry" because "no one student or organization 'owns' particular places on campus." For Aliyari, these occurrences demonstrate the need for "restoring balance to the campus community," and she remarks that the current culture of the Pub is one where "people who don't 'fit in' aren't welcome."

There have, however, been moments this week where PUB POWER members feel like their initiative has had an effect. Aliyari describes feeling "anxious" before entering the Pub on Monday, but upon walking in, she saw "a lot of women there which was empowering." Despite noticing "strange stares," which she attributes to people "not [being] used to so many women being at the Pub," she hopes to gradually "feel more comfortable and safe eating there, and be a part of dismantling this hegemony."

It is unclear if PUB POWER hopes to formally address the perceived demographic disparity at Pub Lunch, either in the form of a public statement or discussion with the Pub staff or regular patrons. The group's description does state that it hopes the women who choose to attend Pub Lunches this week "feel empowered to continue to do so on your own and with you (possibly new) friends!"

Additionally, the group has made efforts to accommodate those who might have dietary restrictions relating to the Pub's food. To the former, the group encouraged those with dietary issues to "come before or after" their lunch. The Pub, for its part, normally has some vegetarian and vegan options, but these are usually limited to salads and baked goods. This past week alone, entrées have included chicken riggies, italian sausage hoagies, and fish tacos — hardly a murderer's row for the meat sensitive (no pun intended).

For those members who might feel uncomfortable or uncertain about the purpose of the initiative, PUB POWER organized a meeting on Feb. 11 from 7 to 8 PM on the Sadove third floor to discuss "thoughts, feelings, excitements, and worries."

Reflecting once more on the purpose of the group, Huntington points to common tropes rolled out by Hamilton students to deflect responsibility in dealing with "hierarchical problems." She hears students say that, "'we live in a bubble,'" adding, "That could be true, but it also exemplifies the ignorance of students who are not aware of their privileges."

"We see Hamilton advertising about how [they] are a welcoming community, a 'Hamily,' so why not address and change the unwelcoming aspects on campus?"

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLIE DUGGAN '20

The Little Pub is a favorite lunch spot for Hamilton students, but members of the "PUB POWER" group assert that the space has become dominated by "white, upper class, able-bodied men."

College hosts series of events in celebration of 100 years of hockey in Clinton

by Jonathan Stanhope '18
Staff Writer

Spirits were high in Clinton, N.Y. this weekend as the village celebrated its 100th year of ice hockey. In collaboration with the Village of Clinton and many local businesses, Hamilton College co-hosted a series of events titled "100 Years of Hockey." The weekend, organized by Andy Burns '78 and Ted Molloy '78, numbered over a dozen, and took place both on and off College Hill.

Although the main focus was on the Saturday evening men's hockey contest between Hamilton and Connecticut College, which the Continentals fought to a 2-2 overtime tie, the weekend's lineup inlucded an artifacts display and historical lecture in Burke Library, a community keynote at Clinton High School, and a Kirkland Art Center-hosted youth hockey fundraiser. The Alexander Hamilton Institute also put on an autograph session with the American Hockey League's Utica Comets.

The weekend's slogan, "Thank you, Albert Prettyman," paid tribute to the former Hamilton Athletic Director who, in February 1918, iced over a tennis court to create Clinton's first hockey rink. Prettyman went on to coach the bronze-medal United States hockey team at the 1936 German Winter Olympic Games in Berlin.

Burns began planning for the event began over two years ago, when his personal passion led him to begin filming a documentary about Clinton hockey history. As he progressed with the film, Burns sensed that there was community support for a Clinton-based event. "I said 'why don't we throw a massive reunion?'", Burns explained. He then reached out to Molloy, a former captain of the hockey team, and began organizing the 100 year celebration.

The celebration drew droves of alumni back to campus, including Hamilton's most famous hockey alum, Guy Hebert '89. Hebert played as Hamilton's goalie before moving onto the National Hockey League (NHL), where he tended net for the St. Louis Blues, the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, and the New York Rangers before retiring in 2001. Herbert is now an associate host for Fox Sports Prime Ticket, covering Anaheim Ducks games.

For his contribution to the Clinton hockey community, President Wippman gifted Hebert with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. As he accepted the honor, Hebert expressed his gratitude to the Clinton community, while at the same time kept the ceremony light hearted, joking that "[my] roommates are probably jealous. Some of them spent eight years working to become a doctor."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE/NANCY FORD

The College's very own hockey alumni got back on the ice for an alumni game on Saturday at Sage Rink.

Also in attendance this weekend was Stan Fischler, an announcer for the New York Rangers who used his time to share with the community some of his favorite hockey stories. Fischler recalled the story of Francis Baker, a former Continental who served as backup goalie in the 1936 Olympics. Baker used the German language skills he acquired at Hamilton to communicate with then-German Chancellor and Olympic host Adolf Hitler on behalf of Team USA.

Fischler took to Twitter at the close of the weekend to reflect on his visit, posting: "I've never, ever, had a better hockey time than today in #Clinton, N.Y. To me, it's the Hockey Capital of America."

Burns himself also considered the event a success, noting that "[I've] never seen so many smiling men in [my] life."

College increases student-employee wages in accordance with recent New York State mandate

by Sara Luster '19
Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, all students employed by Hamilton College received a letter in their mailboxes detailing the effects of the recent change in New York's minimum wage on their own paycheck. While many students were unsure of the notice's significance, Hamilton College's Director of Human Resources, Steve Stemkoski, lent some helpful answers.

As detailed in the letter, New York minimum wage rose to $10.40 an hour from the previous $9.70 in an annual effort to reach $15.00 per hour by the year 2020. When interviewed, Stemkoski stated that New York State mandates that all employees receive notice when the minimum wage is changed to ensure that salaries and pay rates are accepted by the employee and employer. The notice received in the mail was meant to act as a "receipt," recording an acknowledgement of the change in pay rate, according to Stemkoski.

As a result of the change in state minimum wage laws, Hamilton College has proportionally raised the wages of all student employees. The process for doing so at the College is carried out in the following ways.

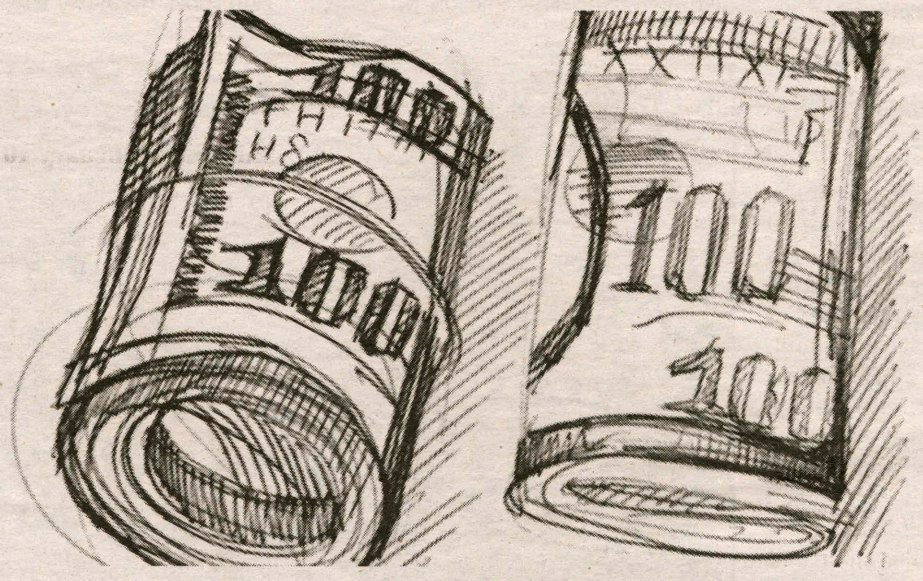

ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

This new wage increase, enacted by the New York State government, is one in a series of increases set in motion by the 2016-2017 State Budget.

The Human Resources page for student wage guidelines details that on-campus jobs for students are split into three pay grades based on experience and the level of skill required for the given job. Student employees receive $10.40 (state minimum wage) –$10.81 for "positions that require students to be dependable and attentive," $10.82–$11.23 for "positions that require the ability to communicate specific academic or technical knowledge, and $11.24–$11.65 for "positions that require advanced academic or technical knowledge." Stemkoski notes that every December, when the state minimum wage rises, Hamilton College bumps the minimum wage paid to students to match the state standards while maintaining the $1.25 spread between the lowest and highest paid student employees.

Human Resources at the College gives individual employers on campus discretion when deciding how much to pay their student workers, making the three-tiered pay system a guideline for their use. As Stemkoski explains, the pay categories also provide the Human Resources department with useful data to ensure "equity and some sense into what we are doing."

As the minimum wage continues to grow each year, Stemkoski believes that senior staff are going to face growing pressure when deciding student wages, and that it is going to be more and more expensive to employ people while department budgets will most likely remain the same.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee budget proposal generates controversy at Student Assembly meeting

by Jonina Mignon '21
Staff Writer

At Student Assembly's last two meetings, one particular issue that has been under continuous debate is approval of funding for the student organization SAAC.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) was founded in 1989 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), with a mission to "enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity, protecting student-athlete welfare and fostering a positive student-athlete image."

At Hamilton, the aim of SAAC is to represent and support our 29 varsity teams and make sure there is diversity and equality within the athletic department. The student-athlete committees also seek to create a positive atmosphere of sportsmanship, in which both student athletes and fans reach their full potential and strive "toward higher goals."

At this year's Student Assembly funding meeting, SAAC submitted a budget for pizza and hats to hand out to fans at home games. The recommended budget for the hats was $2,500, but some members of Student Assembly were more apprehensive about providing this funding. Noam Barnhard '18 addressed the purported exclusivity of SAAC, stating that they "solely support varsity sports. They already receive a lot of money from the school and are relatively well attended. I think SAAC should consider giving some of their attention to some of these club sports."

Jon Stanhope '18 agreed, arguing that because SAAC is made up of student-athletes, "they should be funded by the athletic department."

The discussion was tabled at the first funding meeting, but at the following week's, Darby Philbrick '18, co-president of SAAC, was able to address some of the aforementioned concerns. Arguing that because communication between student-athletes, coaches, and the administration is geared towards encouraging the athletic and academic growth of students, "it's been a longstanding tradition that SAAC really only represents varsity athletes." However, she acknowledged a willingness to discuss pursuing other options, stating that if club sports were to be represented by SAAC, the representatives of those sports would be expected to "uphold all of the duties that SAAC reps uphold, which is going to our community service organized events, coming to our meetings, fulfilling everything that we ask of SAAC reps."

Including club sports was just one point of contention; the specific gear being handed out to fans and the effects of the free products were also strong aspects to consider in the context of providing funding. Philbrick provided statistics for several Games of the Week, in which a marked increase of attendance was seen in sports like basketball, field hockey, and soccer when promotional gear was handed out. Philbrick added that this gear is "for anyone in the Hamilton or Clinton community," and that "attending the game is a campus-wide activity for anyone to enjoy – the goal is not to celebrate athletes only."

In the end, the SAAC funding passed with a new total recommendation of $3,596. However, the debate in Student Assembly raised interesting issues about including club sports and perhaps being subsidized in part by the athletics department, suggesting that there will be continued discussions concerning SAAC for the future.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency, *The Spectator* publishes a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* use their discretion regarding what is published.

Monday, February 5

12:20 A.M. Noise Complaint – Griffin Road Apts.
12:23 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Babbitt Hall
1:42 A.M. Parking Enforcement – Faculty Lots
3:15 P.M. Area Check – Construction Site

Tuesday, February 6

10:19 A.M. Check the Welfare – Residence Hall
9:35 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Wednesday, February 7

12:02 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
12:30 A.M. Noise Complaint – Carnegie Hall
10:13 P.M. Parking Complaint – Mail Center
1:35 P.M. Disabled Vehicle – College Hill Road
2:34 P.M. Parking Complaint – Main Quad
4:18 P.M. Parking Complaint – Main Quad
5:38 P.M. Parking Complaint – Commons Dining
10:50 P.M. Marijuana Complaint – Skenandoa House
11:14 P.M. Noise Complaint – Carnegie Hall
11:42 P.M. Noise Complaint – Carnegie Hall

Thursday, February 8

12:50 A.M. Concern for Welfare – Beinecke Village (Exterior)
1:28 A.M. Smoke Detector – North Hall
1:50 P.M. Concern for Welfare – Residence Hall
5:34 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Events Barn
9:58 P.M. Parking Complaint – Main Quad

Friday, February 9

1:15 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
9:28 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Saturday, February 10

12:31 A.M. Disorderly Conduct – TDX Field
2:39 P.M. Maintenance Issue – Howard Diner
3:46 P.M. Fire Alarm – Griffin Road Apts.
8:20 P.M. Medical Emergency – Howard Diner
9:47 P.M. Car Alarm – Ferguson Lot
10:08 P.M. Marijuana Complaint – Skenandoa House
11:36 P.M. Unauthorized Party – Babbitt Hall
11:43 P.M. Marijuana Complaint – Babbitt Hall
11:54 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Sunday, February 11

12:30 A.M. Fire Alarm – Morris House
12:42 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
1:17 A.M. Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall
2:28 A.M. Disorderly Conduct – College Hill Road

Editor's Note re: "PUB POWER"

As readers can clearly delineate from the front page of this week's *Spectator*, notions of victimhood abound on this campus, even going as far as to infiltrate spaces, such as the Little Pub, which most students would consider to be mundane, apolitical, and in no way "problematic." Yet, according to the group known as "PUB POWER", the Pub's lunch crowd is reflective of white, upper class, able-bodied male hegemony. My note here is not to apply a normative ruling on the protest itself, but instead to comment on and critique inconsistencies and broad applications of victimhood with which I take issue. While I am prepared for the promised-influx of irate, accusatory emails from dissenting students and faculty alike, the co-opting of my identify by a separate movement in the pursuit of aims I do not necessarily support is fundamentally misguided and worth addressing.

The contemporary campus cult of intersectionality asserts that oppression and discrimination results from an individual's various social identities and that those with certain combinations of identities are more likely to be oppressed than others. While there is no doubt that a disabled black woman is likely to experience more oppression than an able-bodied white male, elite college students continue to apply the concept of intersectionality to their own activism in a way which derides the individual agency of the historically-oppressed peoples they aim to represent. PUB POWER is guilty on this charge.

As chronicled in Will Kaback's journalistically-unbiased front page story, female PUB POWER activists, despite focusing on the perceived Pub-based exclusion of women, repeatedly and off-handedly apply their victimhood to additional groups without any particular justification. The group asserts that the white, upper-class, male presence "makes women, alongside other LGBTQIA+ and POC (people of color) members of our community feel inferior" and "unwelcomed." The phrase "alongside other" is reflective of this misapplication of the now-canonical teachings of intersectionality. While the Pub issue is in fact a women's issue, intersectional thinking requires that women's victimhood be extended to "the oppressed" writ large, including POC and LGBTQIA+ folks. As an unabashedly gay man who regularly frequents Pub Lunch and similarly-predominantly male, often-straight spaces, I object to my externally-enforced implicit designation as a victim of the upper-class, white, male frequenters of the Pub.

Note than in Kaback's article, the words "straight" and "racist" are not referenced by activists, not even once. There is no assertion that the white men of the Pub are in anyway homophobic or racist. Instead, it is apparently implied that white men, due to the intersectional hierarchy of victimhood, are, by default, oppressors. Their mere presence, despite the lack of any actions indicating bais, is apparently enough to trigger fears of inferiority, exclusion, and, ultimately, oppression. Due to the absurd and oft-unquestioned misapplication of intersectionality, the purported plight of the Pub Lunch-frequenting woman becomes the plight of every oppressed group, including POC and LGBTQIA+ people, despite the fact that no active or even implicit bias towards them is referenced. While the female activists may feel "inferior, unwelcomed, and outnumbered" in a pub of upper-class white men, I have no such feelings. My conceptions of self-worth and welcomeness are not externally-determined reactions to the racial, gender, or class diversity of my contextual surroundings.

PUB POWER repeatedly asserts that their activism is aimed to support women; the overwhelmingly female leadership and membership of the group reflects such an ambition. By largely including only women in your movement, yet still broadly asserting that you speak for LGBTQIA+ people and POC, based upon a casual reference, these activists diminish the agency of these subsidiary folks they aim to represent. Clearly, these activists are aware of their inconsistency, as they do not reference religious minorities, because, obviously, their female-focused protest has nothing to do with the plight of Muslims, Jews, or any other marginalized religious group. The PUB POWER protest addresses a specific instance of purported oppression of women, not male-identifying LGBTQIA+ people, POC, nor religious minorities. While the inconsistency is realized in reference to religious minorities, the female-led group implicates LGBTQIA+ people and POC in a protest many within these communities want no part of. We have our own voices and do not all consent to being identified with your female-first, Pub-focused activism. Speaking as a gay man, I do not appreciate my inclusion in perceived oppression which I do not identify with. In sum, including communities whom you do not represent in your activism, in aims to satisfy intersectional notions of legitimacy, is cheap, tokenistic, and lazy.

Charles Dunst '18
Editor in Chief, *The Spectator*

Letter to the Editor re: Feb. 8 "Economics Department announces changes to introductory sequence curriculum"

I appreciate *The Spectator*'s coverage of and interest in the Economics Department's recent curricular changes, "Economics Department announces changes to introductory sequence curriculum" in the February 8 edition. However, I am writing to correct one statement made in the article.

The article states that "the proposed changes have yet to be approved by the Committee on Academic Policy." In fact, that committee (an elected faculty committee) did approve the changes; we will begin to phase in our new curriculum in Fall 2018. We will also continue to offer courses that satisfy the "old" requirements so that students currently studying at Hamilton will be able to complete their concentration in Economics.

Thanks again to *The Spectator* for its interest in our curricular changes.

Elizabeth Jensen
Professor of Economics
Acting Chair, Economics Department

***The Spectator* editor's note represents the opinion of the editor himself. It is not agreed upon.**

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

The silver lining in commericalized "Hallmark Holidays"

by Allie Duggan '20
Opinion Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZ WEST/FLICKR

We have reached that time of year again. Days filled with pink and red, store bought cards, chocolate in heart shaped packages, and flowers — Valentines Day. As any holiday focused around love and relationships will be, it is often criticized and deemed a "Hallmark Holiday." This term is predominantly used in the United States to describe a holiday that is perceived to exist primarily for commercial purposes rather than commemorating a historically or traditionally important event. This term is usually used to describe Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

While these critiques may be cynical, they are not incorrect. There is no exact origin of Valentine's Day but it is believed to originate in Ancient Rome. The Romans celebrated the festival of Lupercalia from Feb. 13 to 15, a time when men would hit on women by, well, hitting them. Men would sacrifice a goat or a dog and whip women with the hides of said animals. The women would actually lineup for this beating believing that it would make them more fertile. To add to the insanity, there would be a lottery of the women where men would pick a name from a jar and he and said female would be coupled for the remaining of the festival.

The Romans may even be responsible for the name of the holiday. The Emperor Claudius II executed two men, both on Feb. 14, both named Valentine, throughout the third century A.D. The martyrdom of these men was then commemorated by the Catholic Church naming the day Saint Valentine's Day.

This was then romanticized by writers such as Chaucer and Shakespeare in their works and gained popularity in Great Britain and the rest of Europe. As it made its way to the New World, the exchange of hand-made paper cards in celebration of the holiday gained popularity — cue the industrial revolution and the factory-made cards of the nineteenth century. This reached a pinnacle in 1913 with the creation of Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, M.O. and the mass production of Valentine's Day cards. *CNBC* found that Valentine's Day brought in a total of $19.6 billion to commercial businesses. In the case of Mother's Day the website Fortune estimated that in 2016 there was $21.4 billion spent on the holidays. Similarly, they estimated that, in 2017, there was $15.5 billion spent on Father's Day. In many ways, this may seem like a senseless amount of money spent on a holiday with no distinct historical meaning that should make the day so popular.

Even temporarily putting aside the monetary impacts of this frivolous holidays, the impact of Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Father's Day on the mental health of U.S. citizens can not be ignored. Everywhere from college campuses to grade schools, there are children and young adults who are inundated with valentines and those who are not. While many wish they could return to the glory days of second grade when it as required that if you brought Valentine's Day cards, you must have one for each member of the class, this changes as time goes on. Before long you are in high school and Valentine's transition from an excuse to eat candy and be creative with what Spongbob or puppy valentines you find in Walmart to an expression of affection for either a loved one or in attempt to show your affection for a crush. For those who do not recieve chocolates, flowers, or a teddy bear on Valentine's Day, each passing peer beladen with gifts can be percieved as another affirmation that they are not worthy of that same attention. It becomes a competition of who got the most rather than a celebration of the spirit behind the giving, which as cheesy as it may seem, is love.

On Mother's Day and Father's Day, couples are expected to help children buy the parent a gift. Usually these consist of hand-decorated mugs and cards. While cute in a sense they really do not do anything other than affirm motherhood or fatherhood, something that every day life already does quite well. For those couples who have tragically had children pass or are unable to have children, a day dedicated solely to celebrating fertility and mother/fatherhood can be detrimental.

That being said, tragedy or loss can be associated with any holiday; this is simply a tragedy of life, not something exclusive to those days. It is easy to get lost in the cycle of everyday life and forget to appreciate the loved ones surrounding you. Although people criticize these so-called "Hallmark Holidays," they remind us to take a step back and acknowledge the important people in our lives, whomever they may be.

Although people criticize these so-called "Hallmark Holidays," they remind us to take a step back and acknowledge the important people in our lives, whomever they may be.

In the world in which we currently live, there is an irrational amount of death, tragedy, and corruption, so should we not take any opportunity to celebrate each other? And if nothing less, simply to celebrate in general, anything, for any reason?

Nihilistic attitudes towards the holidays aside, I think it is always nice that we are able to look for things to celebrate and share with each other.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
It's above freezing for the first time since November. Men, whip out those thigh-highs and get some sun.	People getting angry at where other people are or are not eating lunch. I don't care if you're eating a mango brie panini (you elitist ass) or chicken riggies — just shut up and eat it.	I think I saw a dog today.
Chocolate fountain at McCewen. Commons still can't get grilled chicken right but at least dark siders have molten chocolate for their homemade pot brownies.	Someone crashed a van or something near D-Whip's house? Also, the description of the suspects was just super unhelpful.	Today a girl held the door for me, maybe love isn't dead. I was going to go to the gym today but then I realized that I would rather eat crappy Chinese food and complain about my body.

by Gavin Meade '20

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

When an open curriculum leads to closed kitchens and unbalanced checkbooks

by Elizabeth Foot '20
Staff Writer

Hamilton boasts about its open curriculum. "Come on in," they say. "Take *whatever* you want." All you need to fufill the requirements are a couple classes in addressing Physical Education, Quantitative Symbolic Reasoning and Writing Intensity. Easy. Most poeple have it done by second semester sophomore year, if not sooner. Coming to college having absolutely no idea what I wanted to do and feeling like I finally deserved some freedom in the classes I chose, I loved the idea.

Since being here though, it sometimes feels like there are too many options. Until this fall, I had never heard qualms against the open curriculum. Yet, one of my professors voiced that he had always been against the idea, since in his eyes 19 and twenty year olds still need some form of guidance. And while my little, "I can do whatever I want" voice was opposed to this proposed parental guidance, my larger, "I still have no idea what I want to do" voice reminded me that I still have no idea what I want to do with my life, much less which classes I want or need to take.

The majority of college and universities require general courses to provide students a basis for the rest of their classes and, evtually, the real world. These General Education Requirements take up as much as a third of a student's college courses. Here at Hamilton, students take whatever they are interested in and by doing so, hopefully find passsion in one of the many subjects we are open to try. This is a great idea; however, a few supporting measures are necessary. Hamilton has the advising system, the First Year Experience program, and Peer Advisors to support students through the open curriculum. Yet, the idea of having requirements that help all students have an equal standing intrigues me, especially in the context of life post-Hamilton. While I am sure not everyone wants to take a mandatory finance or cooking class, perhaps it could be helpful. In 8th Grade I learned how to balance a checkbook and write deposit and withdrawal slips in a mandatory accounting class. While I had no interest in going into online banking, I found it extremely empowering to know the basics of banking for the future.

> **"Hamilton's open curriculum is a staple innovation, as it puts the responsibility of students' futures and breadth of knowledge in students' hands."**

Similarly, when I was abroad in London, I had to cook for myself. And while I managed not to posion myself or my roommates, I learned I really needed to expand my cooking abilities. One cannot survive on soup and salad and the occasional bagel forever. Yet with my current course load, full of rigorous writing and problem sets, whenever I see the promotions from Bon Appetite for cooking classes, I can never prioritize it over my work. I do not need to know how to cook now; I can go into Commons or McEwen and grab whatever I want, whenever I want. It is premade, prepaid, and fresh. Why should I spend time learning how to cook when I have that easy option?

The general theme or schema of issue that I am trying to make clear is that basic skills of adulthood are lacking in Hamilton's curriculum. The question of whether or not it is the responsibility of Hamilton to give us these skills is not an easy question. I understand the argument that it is not the institutions job to provide us with life skills, but I chose Hamilton because I believed that the open curriculum would provide me the opportunity to develop skills inside and out of the classroom.

So yes, Hamilton's open curriculum is a staple innovation as it puts the responsibility of students' futures and breadth of knowledge in students' hands. While this is great,we sometimes forget that we have the rest of our lives after Hamilton that also needs to be taken into consideration. We will have to eat things other than soup and salad and have to balance our checkbooks and deal with banks and interest rates and mortgages. Phew. When it hits you, it can be a little overwhelming, but there is a very simple solution.

By the time students are seniors here, odds are they are cruising through their thesis and trying to figure out their "After Hamilton" plan. It is daunting, trying to figure out your future, where to live, what you want to do and to add to all of that, odds are, you are broke. It may sound ridiculous, but having a cooking or accounting class might be helpful in taking at least some of the pressure of the real world off of our already over worked shoulders. Additionally, it would give seniors the chance to hang out with peers they might have not met before. Imagine, an Econ major meeting an Art major in a cooking class. I heard a story once that a woman met her husband spring of her senior year. With a "Real Life Requirement" (RLR), that could be you! And it is an added bonus if you are in it for a spouse. You will find out if they know how to cook or if they can handle balancing the checkbook!

PossePlus Retreat successfully sets campus example for future conversations on identity

by Dorothy Poucher '19
Contributing Writer

During the PossePlus Retreat (PPR), we were asked to get into groups with the race we most identified with. We were then asked to create sociograms of our interactions on campus with other racial groups. When asked, people within other racial groups were able to complete their sociograms, where as I had trouble even getting started. As part of the white majority on campus, I am not consistently forced to identify with a race or associate myself with a group. Instead I am allowed the privilege to see myself as an individual defined by other parts of my being. Minorities on this campus are not given the same opportunity.

Although discussing race can be extremely uncomfortable, the impact of race is real and runs deep. If we can begin to understand where we stand in relation to the world around us we can begin to connect better with ourselves and others. In addition, once we own our position, we can begin to better understand the places to which others are relegated. PPR put into practice the idea that conversation and interpersonal relationships are what can help us build empathy and see outside of ourselves. We must allow others to show us who they are rather than define the identity of others based on our own derived concept. As we begin to speak to each other, we begin to live.

Without this conversation, fear and misunderstanding persists on both sides. While education and the development of institutional action plans can help create frameworks for abstract notions of fairness, it is emotional connection, empathy, and hope that ultimately generates the flesh and blood of unity and community. As the majority, many of us already enjoy this feeling. So then how do we extend it?

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAIRE INZERILLO '21

Students gathered for a discussion during the PossePlus Retreat.

We need more widespread education on race and its effects. The enacted diversity requirement and a proposed course on "whiteness" both work towards this goal. Continual and wide participation in conversation is also a necessity. This could be implemented early on if the comradery developed during orientation trips was used as a stepping zone into deeper topics of conversation. Topics such as race should be discussed during the later parts of orientation and throughout the first year. These group conversations would be more influential in creating community and understanding than having someone speak to us about it. Finally, action is necessary. To start, all facets of the community should invite others to engage not only as onlookers or outsiders, but as participants within each of our respective "groups", clubs, etc. What first takes root in the soul through listening to one another develops into empathy that inspires intellectual thought in the mind, all combining as the words that come out of our mouths eventually move into our bones as we begin to not only breathe but to walk our change.

Bachelor & Bachelorette

Katherine Spano '18

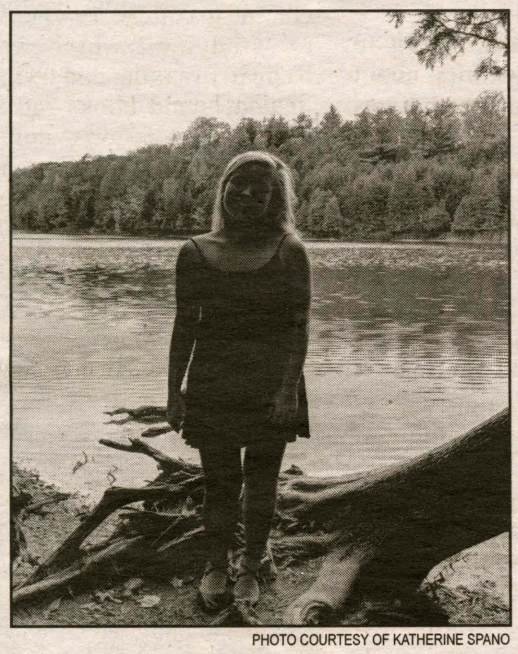


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHERINE SPANO

Hometown: *NYC.*
Home on Campus: *Babbs.*
Major: *Neuroscience.*
Turn on? *A big bowl of mac and cheese.*
Turn off? *Assholes.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Betcha Can't Eat Just One.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Whatever 30 Rock is or HGTV in general.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Do you believe in love at first sight or should I walk up again?*
What's your type? *Tall, dark, and handsome.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Rusty (my cat), Steak and Fries, and Friday Night Lights.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Hannaford.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My room — it's lit.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Dance Team.*
What's your patronus and why? *A unicorn because they're goddamn magical.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *The Giants.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Peas.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Diann Lynch.*
What would your perfect date be? *Beach day all day long with amazing food, volleyball, a sunset, and a campfire.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A feather boa.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Being late.*
Lights on or lights off? *On.*
Favorite campus study spot? *Science Center 3rd floor balcony.*
What's the last lie you told? *That I was full after dinner, I'm basically always hungry.*
What's the meaning of life? *Love, like all the kinds.*
Which member of Disney royalty are you? *Moana.*
Which American historical figure are you attracted to and why? *A young Ernest Hemingway cause he's dreamy af.*

David Urbont '18

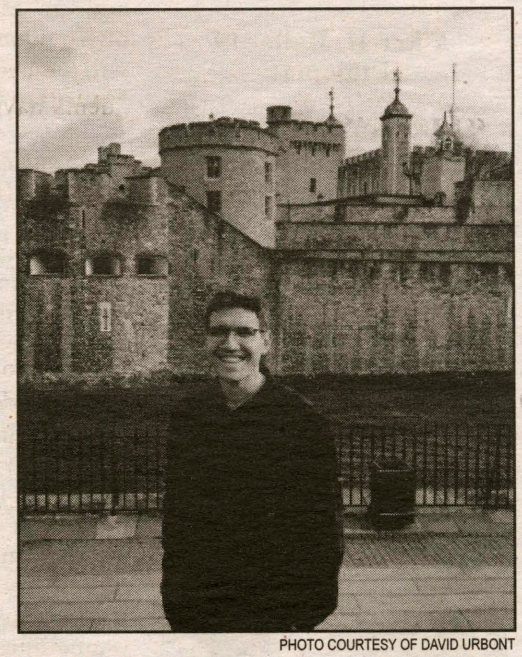


PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID URBONT

Hometown: *Leonia, New Jersey.*
Home on Campus: *Babbitt.*
Major: *Computer Science.*
Turn on? *Not getting charged extra for guac.*
Turn off? *Wealth inequality.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *My parents.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Gimme a break.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Satire sitcoms.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Coffee, Youtube, basketball.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Sadove basement.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My tiny single.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *I wanna get on all the roofs.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Whoever the bachelorette is.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Stu Hirshfield.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *I have a lot of fossils.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Walking slowly in Commons.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights on.*
Favorite campus study spot? *KJ atrium.*
What's the last lie you told? *I'm going to bed — I actually watch youtube videos for hours.*
What was your first thought this morning? *Why God?*
What's the meaning of life? *Probably nothing.*
Which American historical figure are you attracted to and why? *Theodore Roosevelt cause he's a badass.*

From Where I Sit:

Hamilton's International Perspectives

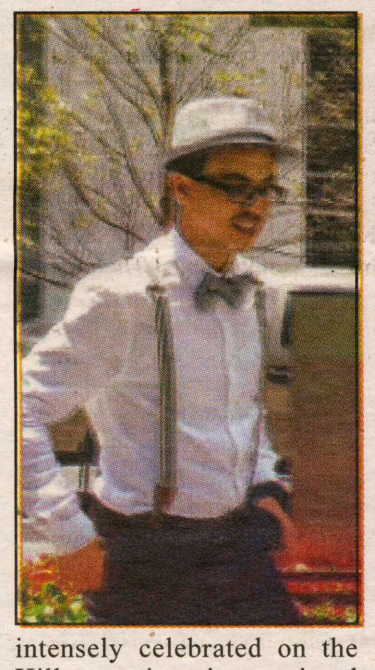
by Leili Aliyari '20
Contributing Writer

Instead of a piece written by a single person, I decided to go around and ask international students this question: "How would you describe life on campus for international students? What disadvantages have you faced and how do you think we could work to improve them?"

Here are some of the answers I received:

Amar Kassim '20 (Yemen/Brooklyn):

"Life on campus for international students is a trying-to-fit-in kind of life. Although diversity is



intensely celebrated on the Hill, sometimes international students feel immense pressure to adhere to the view of a 'typical' Hamilton student."

Fiker M. Haile '19 (Ethiopia):

"Overall, I have had a great experience at Hamilton. I hope in the future there will be a stronger international alumni connection and more resources for international

students in respect to careers, internships, and visa processes."

Anonymous '19 (Mauritius):

"Since my first day at Hamilton, I have been embraced by a very warm and welcoming community that helped ease my transition into this new country. The biggest issue I faced was blending in, especially because of my accent. Then I realized I don't have to blend in. I am my own unique person and people will have to accept me for the Mauritian that I am."

Sandra Beatriz '19 (Brazil):

"Because the international community is small, you often have to adapt and compromise, and find whatever common ground you can with other students, including international ones. I very rarely meet people from Brazil, so it took me a while to feel at home. But some international students adapt right away.

In terms of disadvantages, I sometimes feel isolated from my culture. I don't speak Portuguese with anyone here,

not even Brazilian friends, because we're so used to being in the U.S. and speaking English.

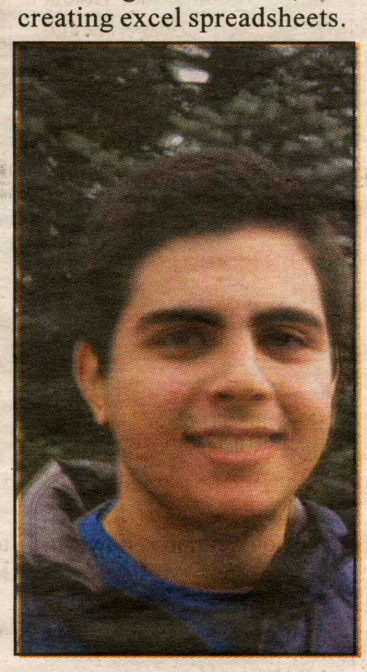
I think speaking up to Multicultural Affairs about our struggles, or even diversity clubs like International Students Association (ISA), might help us become a more active and united international student body."

Greg Miceli '20 (Italy):

"Life on campus can be very interesting for international students. It was amusing to learn about the culture of American students. I saw a lot of separation between students based on two categories: people who do sports and people who do not. It was interesting to see such a big division coming from a country where schools do not care much for sports.

I cannot speak for every international student, but definitely for Italian students, when I say that this environment makes it hard to figure out which 'table' you should sit at in the dining hall. I think it is important to create an environment where international students can feel comfortable interacting with both groups.

Another thing that I've noticed at Hamilton that is not common in Italian universities is trying to find a balance between studying and homework. Most of our time here is spent on so called 'doing work.' This is an expression I have never heard in my country. Before coming to college, I was used to 'studying,' which was basically reading and trying to understand books rather than writing reports, doing WebAssign homeworks, and creating excel spreadsheets.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEILI ALIYARI '20

My first semester, I was confused if I learned from some of my classes or I provided work services for them.

I think that it is essential for the College to educate and/or inform international students about this change of work-study mentality."

"From Where I Sit" is a column dedicated to international students' voices. If you are interested in contributing a piece, contact Britt Hy-

Jealous you weren't picked to be the Bachelorette or Bachelor of the week? Nominate yourself or others by emailing featspec@hamilton.edu

Hamilton tragedies

The following is a list of sad moments that The Spectator *staff experiences. These moments sometimes occur on an all-too-regular basis, and other times they are infrequent, but disappointing enough to make it on this list.*

When you are single on Valentine's Day and all of your coupled friends go out to eat together.

When the Diner is out of buff chicken on Mac Wednesdays or curly fries on Curly Fry Friday.

When someone wears white jeans in January.

When your water bottle starts to smell.

When you slip outside Commons and spill the contents of your to-go cup.

When the snow melts and the smell of fertilizer fills the air.

When two potential criminals are on the loose in or around Clinton.

When you miss the chocolate fountain at McEwen.

When you go to Chess Club to play chess, but it's really just a room of full of embezzling frat guys.

When someone doesn't wipe down their machine at the gym.

Nadav Konforty '20 takes the 2018 Mr. Hamilton title

by Bethany Vickery '20
FEATURES EDITOR

PHOTO BY DEHAO TU '20

The four contestants of the Mr. Hamilton pageant pose proudly after the event. Nadav Konforty '20 (far left) was named the winner.

Hosted by Alternative Spring Break (AXB), the Mr. Hamilton pageant drew a such a crowd the annex was nearly full. Accompanied by Cardi B's "Bodak Yellow", Zach Oscar '18 and David Dacres '18 strutted onstage with aplomb. After thanking the Social Traditions Committee and bantering with the audience a bit, Oscar and Dacres introduced the judges: Aiden Costello '20, Jared Mandelbaum '18, Theresa Gallagher, and Travis Hill.

Casey from the Social Traditions Committee took the stage next, explaining the history and purpose of the Mr. Hamilton pageant. Starting in 1925, the College has thrown a winter carnival to brighten up the long winter days. What used to be a Queen of the Carnival competition is now Mr. Hamilton. The pageant is partly for the purpose of comic relief during the gloomy month of February, but its satirization of female pageants makes a political statement as well.

We first saw the contestants on the runway for the evening wear fashion show. Lance Kilburn '20 went first, representing Hamilton Association for Volunteering, Outreach and Charity (HAVOC) in colorful pants, followed by Leo Ross, or Mr. Rowing. Representing the Hamiltones was Hudson Smith '21, sporting denim and a baseball cap. President of Student Assembly, Nadav Konforty '20, took to the runway in a vest and bowtie.

Sporting elegant black blazers, the Dance Team took the stage next with power and grace. A vibrant mashup of songs accompanied their fierce choreography, and the crowd hooted with enthusiasm. I was seated behind HEAT, the other dance group performing at the pageant, and was able to hear them vigorously cheering on the dancers.

Following the Dance Team's performance was the talent section of the night. Mr. Kilburn kicked things off, singing a sweet love song in the spirit of Valentine's Day. He carried the tune with ease, and displayed a remarkable sense of rhythm, staying on beat despite the audience's well-intentioned efforts to clap along. Kilburn's performance showed real singing talent, and his earnest demeanor earned him good reviews from the judges.

Leo Ross took a vastly different approach to the talent portion of the show. His sequined shirt caught the light as he conducted creative maneuvers with a rubik's cube, which he deftly completed behind his back multiple times. Pulling a hammer from his pocket, Ross finished his act by smashing the rubik's cube on the floor. His act was met with copious vocal support from the rowing team, who clearly found Ross's act nothing short of groundbreaking. Judge Costello described it as "magic before my eyes."

Hudson Smith engaged the audience with his act, calling at least five volunteers onstage with him to play a game. "Toxic" by Britney Spears played as background music while Smith chanted "Hey Bub" and spoke semi-rhythmically. His volunteers joined in, offering phrases along the lines of "Hey Bub! My wife left me yesterday and I'm really sad," and "Hey Bub! Random stuff is said." Mr. Hamiltone's act was met with confusion from the crowd, but warm reactions from the judges. "I don't get it, but good enthusiasm," offered Judge Gallagher.

Nadav Konforty went last, performing an exquisite dance routine which ended with him throwing his vest in the air and snapping his suspenders. His confidence and skill wowed the crowd, and the Annex filled with hoots and shouts of encouragement.

While the judges deliberated, HEAT performed; the dancers took the stage with passion and power, and their air-tight routine awed the audience. Beyonce's "Run the World (Girls)" was a fitting soundtrack for HEAT's exceptional display of talent, with the dancer's powerful movements channeling Queen Bey herself.

A brief question and answer session followed, the highlights of which include Hudson Smith's revelation that he dreams of going tandem skydiving with President Wippman and Lance Kilburn's designation of Dunham as campus capital. The hosts pronounced Nadav Konforty the winner of Mr. Hamilton and awarded Mr. Ross, Mr. Kilburn, and Mr. Smith 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place respectively.

The evening was full of laughter and good humor, and the judges and hosts all provided *The Spectator* with positive reviews of the event.

Lunar New Year celebration organized by Asian Students Association

by William Andriola '21
STAFF WRITER

This upcoming week, millions around the world will celebrate the end of the Year of the Rooster and the beginning of the Year of the Dog with the commemoration of Lunar New Year on Feb. 16. This holiday, very important in many Asian countries, including China and Japan, marks the end of one cycle of the moon and the beginning of a new cycle. One of the world's most celebrated festivals, the Lunar New Year typically starts between January to mid-February and continues for many days after. Here at Hamilton, the Asian Student Association (ASA) will also be hosting an event this year to mark this holiday.

Though traditions and celebrations vary from family to family and country to country, one of the common themes of all Lunar New Year celebrations is the honoring of family and one's ancestors. Perhaps one of the most important traditions of Lunar New Year is a large family meal, in which families are given the opportunity to sit together and enjoy large meals composed of traditional dishes such as dumplings or chicken. Another favorite celebration includes dragon and lion dances, which feature a team of dancers manipulating a large dragon or lion figure using poles. These dances are often performed in public spaces in China, and are designed to bring good luck and fortune. Other nations celebrating the holiday, such as Korea and Japan, also have their own versions of these dances.

Additionally, the color red, a symbol of good fortune in many Asian countries, plays a major role in the festivities. In honor of the holiday, many people decorate their windows and doors with red. The exchange of red envelopes, containing money and gifts, is also very popular, as are fireworks.

In past years, the Hamilton College Asian Student Association has celebrated the Lunar New Year with several activities, such as making red envelopes or paper lanterns. This year, the group plans to screen the beloved Disney film *Mulan*, which first debuted in 1998. *Mulan* was chosen because the ASA wanted a movie that was "popular, inspiring, and something we know people will enjoy," according to Jonathan Dong '21, Community Chair of ASA. In addition, the celebration will include an "abundance" of Chinese food, including a number of traditional Asian dishes, known as "lucky foods," which are served on this holiday.

This year, the Asian Student Association will host its Lunar New Year celebration on Friday, Feb. 23 in the Annex, one week after the true start of the Lunar New Year due to FebFest conflicts. The event will run from 6 PM through 8 PM. Ultimately, the holiday holds a "dear place" in his heart, says Dong, because it "drives people to come together and celebrate in honor of family, prosperity, fortune, and overall happiness.

[The ASA] wants to use this event to bring everyone together and celebrate the community found on campus."

Asian Student Association Executive Board Members:

Amanda Kim, Discussion Chair
Kavya Crasta, Programing Director
Jonathan Dong, Community Chair

Alicia Oltajua concert begins Hamilton Performing Arts series

by Michelle Chung '20
A&E Editor

In their first event of the spring season, the Hamilton College Performing Arts brought jazz vocalist Alicia Oltajua to the stage in the Wellin Hall on Feb. 9. Sharing the stage with Olatuja was Jon Cowherd on piano, David Rosenthal on guitar, Ben Williams on bass, and Xavier Breaker on drums. The group performed a dynamic set of songs, revealing a unique and incredible sound that had the whole crowd listening in awe.

Born in St. Louis, M.O., Olatuja has been interested in music ever since she was a child. She was accustomed to listening to a range of musical styles including gospel, jazz, soul, and classical. Following this growing passion, she attended music school at the University of Missouri and the Manhattan School of Music where she graduated with a Masters in Classic Voice/Opera. With her talent attracting thousands, she has sang at spaces like the Jazz Standard, Rockport Jazz Festival, and Barack Obama's second inauguration in 2013. In 2016, she released her first solo album *Timeless* and has been traveling around the nation to perform her own works ever since.

Throughout the concert, Olatuja and the band performed a wide array of songs with some following a more mellow, softer mood while others used a faster, more cheerful rhythm. Some songs touched upon the theme of love, break-ups, and friendships in incredibly moving and deep ways — fitting for the Valentine's Day holiday. One of Olatuja's most notable songs is "Serrado," a piece whose lyrics were entirely in Portuguese. The quick pacing and catchy melodies had people tapping their feet and shaking their heads along to the beat, even if they may have not understood the lyrics entirely.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAJA BIELECKA '21

Pianist Jon Cowherd, guitarist David Rosenthal, bassist Ben Williams, and drummer Xavier Breaker join vocalist Alicia Oltajua on stage.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAJA BIELECKA '21

Alicia Olatuja takes on the stage in the first Performing Arts event of the semester.

Audience members also had their own chance to participate in the performance as well. Whether it was by snapping along to the beat, clapping in time, or repeating back some of the lyrics, Olatuja managed to make everyone feel engaged and excited. One of the most notable uses of audience participation was during a song written about a break-up between two individuals on a rainy day. Olatuja encouraged the crowd to snap their fingers every time she would signal to them, in no particular timing or speed, creating the pitter-patter of rain against the pavement. As a result, the music became even more captivating, engaging, and *real*.

Oltauja also revealed her next album, *Intuition-Songs from the Minds of Women*, which seeks to showcase and champion the works of contemporary women composers. She wanted to celebrate the "intellectual and emotional expression" of their works by referencing artists from a range of different genres. In promoting its upcoming release, Oltauja performed her version of the popular song "Hide and Seek" written by Imogen Heap. Though her performance still followed the haunting style of the original (which only uses a keyboard synth and vocals), she used a more upbeat and quicker pace with fuller instrumentation.

To end the night, Oltauja and the group performed "Amazing Grace," a powerful piece that seemed to shake the room as she began by singing a capella. As the piece went on, the other band members joined in layer by layer. In fact, each artist was given their time to shine with their own solos as Oltauja introduced each member. Amazed by the talent of them all, the crowd gave Oltauja, Cowherd, Rosenthal, Williams, and Breaker a standing ovation by the end of the concert.

With a style of music that combines jazz and soul through an incredibly captivating sound, Oltauja and her fellow band members did not disappoint — setting up a great start to the semester for Hamilton's Performing Arts series.

The Hamilton College Performing Arts will be bringing even more performers for the spring semester! Make sure to check out next week's upcoming event.

Taken from the Hamilton College Performing Arts Website

Manual Cinema, ADA/AVA
Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Wellin Hall, Schambach Center

Manual Cinema uses classic overhead projectors, humans and silhouettes to create a one-of-a-kind theatre experience that feels like being at an animated movie, but you are seeing everything being constructed frame-by-frame. Set in a landscape of the New England gothic, Ada/Ava uses a story of the fantastic and supernatural to explore mourning and melancholy, self and other.

All performances are in the Wellin Hall. Admission for all performances include $20 for adults, $15 for senior citizens and Hamilton community, and $5 for students.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MANUAL CINEMA

Manual Cinema follows the captivating and puzzling story of twins Ava and Ada.

WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:

The Shady Ladies

Sundays at 6 p.m.

with...

Nadav Konforty '20 and Mason Sheridan '20

Have you ever needed a playlist or new music to add to your repertoire? Well, now you can with the Shady Ladies. Get the most out of their eclectic tastes as they send all kind of wonderful jams through the sound waves and into your ears and hearts.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE LUMINEERS

The Shady Ladies will feature some popular hits from *The Lumineers*.

Typical Playlist:

"The Ocean Song"
– Joe Probert

"Work Song"
– Hozier

"Angela"
– The Lumineers

"XO"
– John Mayer

"Galway Girl"
– Ed Sheeran

Established in 1941, WHCL is a non-profit, student-run, free-form radio station. Located atop College Hill in the beautiful village of Clinton, New York, it boasts 270 watts of power and runs 20 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Predicting the Academy Award winners, part two

by Will Kaback '20
Managing Editor

Best adapted screenplay

Few pay attention to this category, but some of the year's best films can be found here. *The Disaster Artist* was a movie I thought would be disappointing, but ended up being one of the funniest and subtly heartfelt films I saw this year. *Molly's Game* demonstrated Aaron Sorkin's masterful writing ability once again, and managed to combine a sports drama, high-stakes gambling, and a tense legal battle into a coherent story arc. My vote, however, goes to *Call Me By Your Name*, based on André Aciman's 2007 novel of the same title. I have not read Aciman's book, but by all accounts, it was not written to be made into a movie. Large swaths of the narrative are unspoken and take place in characters' heads, and the specificity and simultaneous importance of the setting presents an additional litany of challenges. James Ivory's adaptation, though, pulls it off, resulting in arguably the most beautiful film of the year. All nominated films in this category were successful in their adaptations, but none was as challenging a task as *Call Me By Your Name.*

Prediction: James Ivory, *Call Me By Your Name*

Best original screenplay

No matter which one wins, the other four films in this category will come away feeling like they deserved the statue. This is quietly one of the most competitive groupings this year, with four of the five nominees being shortlisted for Best Picture. The fifth, *The Big Sick*, was widely considered a prominent snub when it did not make the Best Picture cut. In any case, this feels like a race that could offer some consolation to a movie that does not ultimately win the top prize. In my mind, *Get Out* should be the favorite here, but I suspect the Academy will vote otherwise. Peele's film, simply put, will be the most remembered film from 2017 in ten — even twenty — years. Unfortunately, any movie involving "horror" faces an uphill battle at the Oscars, and given its company in this category, that fact alone might rule the film out of contention. *The Big Sick* was a surprise hit and would represent an emotional climax for Emily V. Gordon and Kumail Nanjiani, who wrote the screenplay based on their own relationship. Likewise, *Lady Bird* is largely autobiographical and a win for the film would be a nod to Gerwig's talent in performance, writing, and direction. *The Shape of Water* is written in a style that somehow feels both antiquated and brand new, but with thirteen nominations, the screenplay might not even be one of its top-three features. That leaves *Three Billboards*, which did not receive the same pre-release buzz as some of its counterparts, but garnered its current awards-cycle momentum on the back of its one-of-a-kind writing (and the performances, of course). With this script, Martin McDonagh, who also directed the film, has crafted a work of peerless originality and I expect the Academy to reward him for its drama, dark humor, and stoic realism.

Prediction: Martin McDonagh, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*

Best cinematography

In my eyes, a three-way race between *Blade Runner 2049*, *The Shape of Water*, and *Dunkirk*. *Blade Runner* was almost painfully gorgeous to look at, and would be a deserving victor here, but it lacks the overall momentum of its counterparts in this category. *Dunkirk* conveyed the terror of imminent destruction from its opening frame and featured one of the most stirring finales of any film this year in the form of Tom Hardy's burning airplane in the last shot. Even so, *The Shape of Water* has the edge, if only because of del Toro and cinematographer Dan Laustsen's immaculate vision. My vote is *Dunkirk*, but the Academy has already shown love to *The Shape of Water*, and this feels like a place where that love will manifest itself accordingly.

Prediction: Dan Laustsen, *The Shape of Water*

Best original score

If *Dunkirk* does not win for cinematography, it has to win for its score. Frequent Nolan collaborator (and film legend) Hans Zimmer has done perhaps his finest work in this film, grounding it in the ticking of a stopwatch and reaching nauseating heights in the air, tense uncertainty on the ground, and valor on the water. Again, *The Shape of Water* could win here if it has momentum by this point in the night, but I have to believe the Academy will recognize the technical achievement of *Dunkirk* in at least one category.

Prediction: Hans Zimmer, *Dunkirk*

Best visual effects

One of the few categories without a Best Picture nominee (or actor, actress, director, or writer, for that matter), this grouping nonetheless embodies the future of film. Although a few of the nominees (*Kong: Skull Island* and *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*) were not critically acclaimed, their ability to bring the monstrous, galactic, and futuristic to the screen in convincing fashion alone merited their viewing. This will be competitive, but I think *Blade Runner 2049* will come out victorious.

Prediction: John Nelson, Paul Lambert, Richard R. Hoover, Gerd Nefzer, *Blade Runner 2049*

Best Picture

Finally, the biggest category in Hollywood. At this point last year, the Best Picture race was between *La La Land* and *Moonlight* (who could forget how that turned out), and in years past, *Spotlight*, *Birdman*, and *12 Years A Slave* all felt like the favorites going into the ceremony. This year, we face the exciting prospect of not having a clear frontrunner. Currently, critics are predicting a close race between The *Shape of Water* and *Three Billboards*, but *Dunkirk*, *Lady Bird*, and *Get Out* all have strong cases and could conceivably make a final push this month. I loved all five of these films, and hope that no matter who wins we all can acknowledge how good the movies were this year, especially against the backdrop of the past month's grim behind-the-scenes look into Hollywood and the major shifts the industry is currently undergoing as a result. Betting money has to be on *The Shape of Water*, but I am inclined to believe we are going to see a major upset for the second year in a row. *Lady Bird* is the perfect movie for the times and represents all the reasons to have hope for the movie industry. The direction, cast, writing, and visual storytelling are all top notch, and I think it has just enough support from its fans and its production company to pull this one off.

Prediction: *Lady Bird*

And finally — my personal Top 10 Films of the Year.

1. *Call Me By Your Name*
2. *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*
3. *Lady Bird*
4. *Get Out*
5. *Dunkirk*
6. *Good Time*
7. *I, Tonya*
8. *The Shape of Water*
9. *Columbus*
10. *Blade Runner 2049*

Bonus: The Top 5 Short Films of the Year.

1. *Lucia, Before and After*
2. *Smilf*
3. *Cautionary Tales*
4. *My Nephew Emmett*
5. *Cul-de-sac*

Two new exhibits open at the Wellin Museum

by Emily Rivito '21
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 10, the Wellin Museum of Art premiered the exhibits "Margarita Cabrera: Space in Between" and "This Place" for the public. The event drew many students, faculty, and community members with a reception that included a water bottle giveaway.

Margarita Cabrera was born in Monterrey, Mexico, and has lived in Mexico City, Salt Lake City, and El Paso. She has received the Knight Artist in Residence Fellowship at the McColl Center for Visual Art in Charlotte, North Carolina, as well as the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Art at Arizona State University in Tempe.

Cabrera's "Space in Between" tells the stories of Spanish-speaking immigrants who have come to America from Mexico and Central America. In partner with Arizona State University and the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Cabrera created a workshop for these immigrants to build sculptures of desert plants native to the Southwestern United States. The material of these sculptures comes from the uniforms of border-patrol workers, symbolizing the often difficult and troublesome experiences of those immigrating to the United States. The sewing and embroidery techniques were taken from Los Tenangos, Hidalgo, and Mexico. The title of this exhibit was incorporated from the word Nepantla, a Nahuatl Aztec word for "the space in the middle" that references marginalized cultures and how they survive through resistance.

Cabrera says of her exhibit, "With these works, we have created art pieces that serve as cultural and historical artifacts that value and document the experiences, struggles, and achievements of those who have found their way, often through migration and exceptional sacrifice, to new places where they now work to contribute meaningfully within their communities."

"This Place" documents the photographic experience of twelve different artists who travelled to Israel and the West Bank from 2009 to 2012. This is part of a partnership between four different colleges and their academic libraries. The Wellin Museum is amongst a group that includes the Picker Art Gallery at Colgate University, the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College, and the University at Albany Art Museum that carries this exhibit. Four of the twelve artists are featured at Wellin Frédéric Brenner, Wendy Ewald, Fazal Sheikh, and Stephen Shore.

The landscape, community life, and portraits of Israel are captured in this exhibit. Muslims, Jews, Palestinians, Israelis, Africans, Bedouins, and more all inhabit the state, creating high tensions where violence is a constant threat. In the collection of photographs, visitors are able to experience each perspective of the twelve artists sent to Israel. The many different lives in Israel are represented through this.

The photographs capture aspects of Israeli life such as Melach Haretz, a military academy for at-risk boys to prepare them for enlistment in the Israeli Army. Another collection shows photos of The Sisters of Nazareth School, the first educational institution in Haifa for girls. Photos of the Mahane Yehuda market show the different types of food and culture intermingling in Israeli commerce.

One of the photographers, Frédéric Brenner, makes an important statement about the exhibit. He says, "Ideologies are a betrayal of the humanae in the human. They give us the illusion of belonging while they make us strangers to what is most intimate within us."

The artists of these exhibits strive to blur the divisions that exist between our cultures and to break away from the "us and them" mentality that exists so prevalent among our society today. "This Place" shares the stories of the variety of cultures and backgrounds that collide and mingle together in Israel. "Space in Between" shares the stories of immigrants who take a journey filled with challenges and obstacles to overcome.

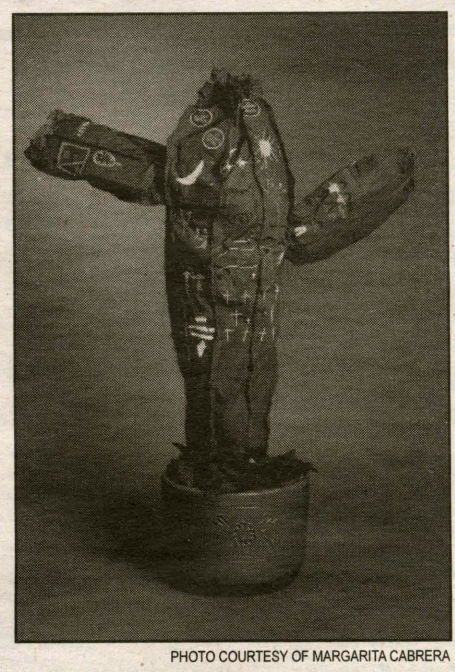


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGARITA CABRERA

***Space in Between — Saguaro (Liliana Santoyo)* is one of the many pieces at the new exhibit.**

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Attorney at Law

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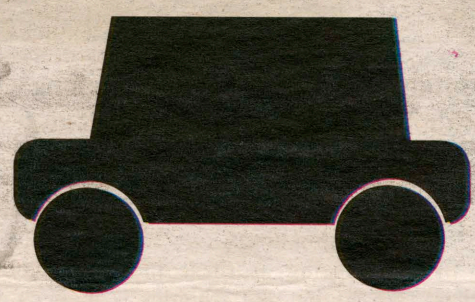

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Doping scandals demonstrate that steroids should be legal in society and sports

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko (right) was found guilty, along with the Russian governement of withholding evidence of failed drug tests.

by Levi Lorenzo '19
Sports Editor

The Winter Olympics are upon us and no Olympics in recent memory has passed without a doping scandal. The particular scandal making headlines in PyeongChang involves the fallout from a systematic, government-directed effort to help Russian athletes pass doping tests. The scandal, detailed, and partially uncovered, in the documentary *Icarus* (currently on Netflix) ran from 2011 to 2015 when the Russian minister of sport ordered 312 positive tests be withheld from World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). As a result, Russia was banned from the PyeongChang games, although its athletes are competing under the neutral title "Olympic Athletes from Russia."

Doping scandals have plagued sports for years, and, with ever-evolving drugs and methods for evading drug tests, one never really knows who is truly playing by the rules and who is not. Assuredly, athletes around the world in all sports and leagues have successfully avoided drug tests. The NFL implemented Human Growth Hormone (HGH) testing in 2014, but no one tested positive until 2017, despite testimonies that HGH use in the NFL is widespread. Drug testing supposedly provides a level playing field but, when the tests are so inconsistent and it is easy to cheat, is the field really level? Additionally, while leagues are ostensibly attempting to rid their sports of drug use, they also have the ulterior motive of improving their product. Frankly, fans want to see bigger, stronger, and faster players competing at a higher level. Chicks dig the long ball, and guys want to see bone-shattering hits.

Performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) make home runs fly farther and the crushing hits bigger. PEDs make records fall and fans tune in. Consumers consistently want to see new, more exciting sports, and as long as that is the case, leagues will have a strong disincentive to fight usage of performance-enhancing drugs.

Seeing as these men and women are adults, and athletics is their career, why should they not be able to use performance-enhancing drugs? Testing is expensive anyways, and not testing is perhaps fairer than testing. Giving everyone access to everything and letting them be monitored by doctors will improve the level of play. Of course, there are certain legal obstacles, particularly in the United States, and while I do support the legalization and regulation of steroids, these obstacles can be avoided as well. While PEDs can have negative side effects, those effects can be minimized if they are legal, regulated, and a doctor oversees their usage. The reality of achieving at the highest level in sports is that doing so requires sacrifices. Top-level athletes will do whatever necessary to make themselves better at just about any cost. Especially when they are compensated so handsomely, potential health risks down the road are perhaps a small price to pay. Just ask any NFL player. Certainly, the negative effects are more drastic and longer lasting for adolescents and young adults who are still developing. If legal, steroids could be regulated and an age minimum could and should be created.

Other issues arise in terms of access and fairness. Those with more money and access to PEDs will gain an advantage; however, money and access are already and always will be an advantage, steroids aside.

Legalization of steroids can help remove their stigmatization. The negative side effects are often sensationalized and the potential benefits are downplayed. In addition while many overtly denounce steroids, as a society we covertly support their use. In 1990, George H.W. Bush signed the Anabolic Steroid Control Act into law. The same year, he named Arnold Schwarzenegger the head of the Presidential Council on Fitness. I hate to break the hearts of all of those who idolize Schwarzenegger and think he is natural, but he simply was not, and he has admitted as such. In fact, I will even go a step further in crushing dream; all of your heroes are on drugs.

Hulk Hogan? Yea, it took a little more than "eat your vegetables and say your prayers" for him to look the way he did. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson? Do not be so naive. Rocky Balboa is perhaps one of the greatest heros in the history of sports movies for doing things the right way while Ivan Drago used drugs to his advantage, yet Sylvester Stallone juiced consistently throughout the filming of the Rocky movies.

We know about many baseball players who used steroids, but what about all of those who never failed a drug test, especially those who played in the steroid era? I have a hard time clearing anyone's name, and that is unfortunate. Were steroids legal under both statutory law and in Major League Baseball, there would be no questions about who deserves to be in the Hall of Fame, and we would not have to tarnish the name of athletes who made the decision to use steroids, frankly because they felt they needed to keep up. We would not be beholden to the flawed MLB drug testing system to determine which athletes are role models and which are not.

With body image issues becoming increasingly prevalent among adolescent males and females, one cannot help but wonder whether openness about steroids could help ameliorate such issues. Social media and the internet have thrust images of muscular, lean men in front of adolescent males, and many of these bodies were created with the use of steroids or similar drugs. Young men are tricked into believing that they can achieve a certain physique that is unattainable to 99.9 percent of the population without the use of PEDs. Young women experience similar issues as well. If athletes, bodybuilders, models, and any others whose bodies are put on a pedestal were open about their steroid use, young men and women would be able to have more realistic body goals and better body images. We could better disseminate information about the risks associated with steroids and better manage steroid use so they are safely used. Further, legal, regulated steroids can help doctors enforce that steroids are drugs with potential side effects, and adults are responsible enough to weigh the risks of and adolescents are not, especially considering that the long-term health risks are considerably greater for those who are still developing.

I envision a future where steroids are legal in society and in sport. People are well-educated on their benefits, side effects, and their use in medicine. Sports fans are happy with the on-field product and no longer have to ask questions about who is playing by the rules. The playing field will be level, as athletes are all able to take PEDs. Young athletes understand that steroids are for adults, and, if they wish to play professionally, taking PEDs is a choice they may want, but do not have to make. Young men and women understand what a realistic physique to obtain without PEDs is as well as what is obtainable with which drugs. That future is a long way off. Until then, enjoy the U.S. hockey team play the "Olympic Athletes from Russia" team and enjoy watching the Winter Olympics, along with NFL, NBA, MLB, and NHL games not knowing who is playing by the rules and who is not. The other choice is to be naive enough to think that drug tests are perfect and no athletes take PEDs.

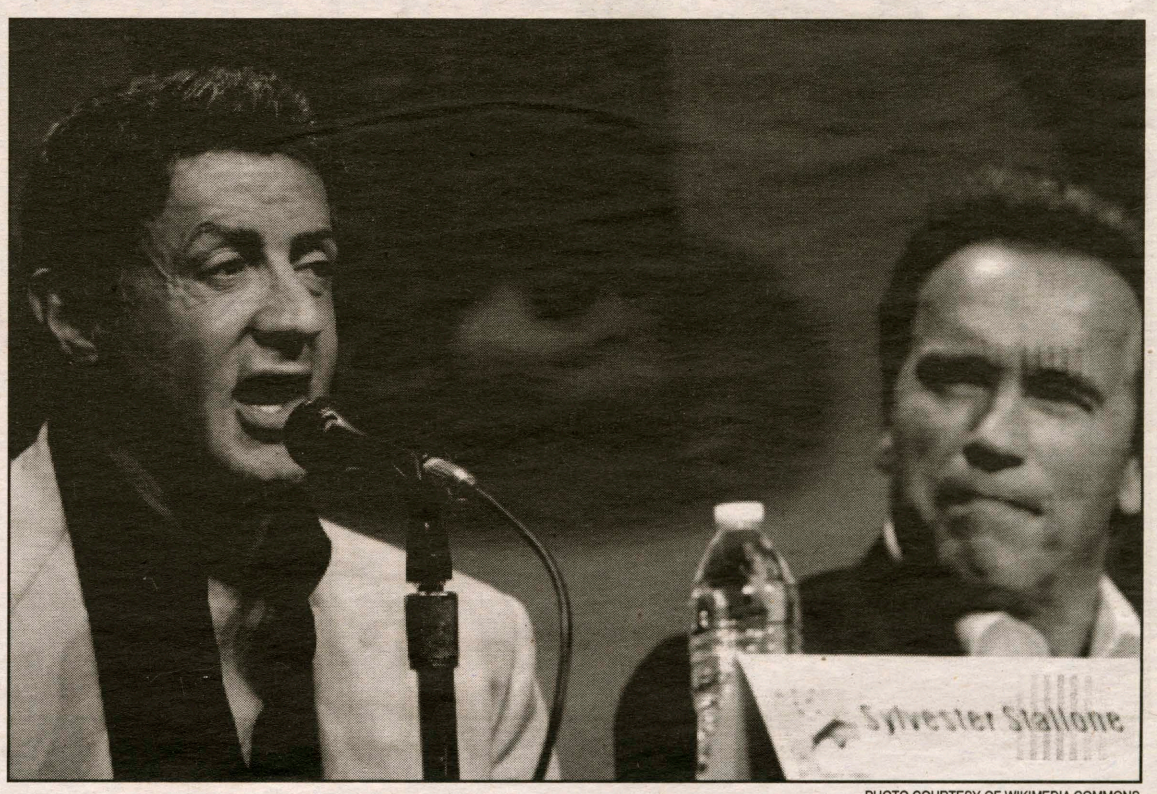


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Despite opposition to steroids in sports, society has made idols out of admitted steroid users.

The best dunkers in recent NBA Slam Dunk Contest history

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports Editor

This weekend, four of the NBA's supreme high-flyers will take the court at the Staples Center to prove they are the league's best dunker in Saturday's Slam Dunk Contest. In what is always one of the most riveting annual demonstrations of athleticism and style in sports, Larry Nance Jr., Dennis Smith Jr., Donovan Mitchell, and Victor Oladipo will put their creativity and explosiveness on display to decisively hold the vaunted title of Slam Dunk Contest Champion. This year's competition certainly has the potential to be exhilirating, and will hopefully be able to make up for last year's disappointing lack of creativity and memorable moments.

Every year around this time, I spend hours on YouTube pouring over dunk contests of years past, reliving my favorite moments (and even some I did not see in my lifetime). This year, I put my thoughts to paper, once and for all decisively ranking the top-five NBA Slam Dunk Contest dunkers of all time. I have limited my list to dunkers who competed during my lifetime, starting with the 1996 Slam Dunk Contest. The following criteria was used to rank the dunkers (in order of importance): amplitude, creativity, style/flare, personal experience watching dunker, longevity, and best single dunk.

5. Gerald Green

Gerald Green is one of the most superhuman athletes in NBA history, and his performances in dunk contests were always electrifying. Green burst onto the scene in 2007 with his first jam off a feed from Paul Pierce off the side of the backboard before cocking the ball behind his head and throwing it down. On a personal note, this is the dunk I attempted to recreate most frequently on my Nerf hoop, revolutionizing my jam sessions throughout elementary school. Green capped off his 2007 performance with three more soaring slams, including leaping over reigning dunk champion, Nate Robinson, earning him the his first Slam Dunk Contest victory. All four of Green's dunks featured the Celtics' winger clearing the rim with his head. Green would return in 2008, but would unfortunately come up short to another member of this list. However, Green's 2008 appearance provided us with the most creative dunk I have ever witnessed, as he successfully blew out a candle perched atop a cupcake while simultaneously throwing down a two-handed dunk. Green proved his bounce had survived several trades and five years of wear and tear with a stellar performance in the 2013 Slam Dunk Contest. Through his three Slam Dunk Contest appearances, Green proved himself as one of the most creative dunking minds while displaying his incredible bounce to solidify his place as an all-time great.

4. Dwight Howard

It is difficult to stand out as a tremendous dunker as a seven-footer, but big man Dwight Howard picked up the illustrious 2008 Slam Dunk Contest belt while displaying his physical marvels in three contests total. Howard's signature dunk came in his 2008 contest victory, when he removed his Orlando Magic jersey to reveal a Superman cape. Howard caught an alley oop from a foot inside the free-throw line, soared through the air for what seemed like an eternity, and quite literally threw the ball through the hoop for a perfect score of 50 from the judges. *TNT* personality Kenny Smith immediately proclaimed: "You win, you win young fella," while the audience went bananas. How did Howard follow up one of the most physics-defying dunks in All-Star Weekend history? By collecting a self alley-oop, pushing the ball off the glass with his left hand, catching it with his right, and slamming it home, all in mid-air. Howard's 2008 performance revived the hype of the Slam Dunk Contest, with people across the globe wondering how far the seven-footer could push the laws of gravity. To top his dunking career off, Howard slammed an alley-oop home on a 12-foot hoop in the 2009 Dunk Contest. Howard was irreplicable, authoritative, and mind-boggling, everything fans desire in a dunk contest participant.

3. Zach LaVine

Although I may be accused of both recency and Minnesota bias, Zach LaVine's back-to-back Slam Dunk Contest victories in 2015 and 2016 were simply unbelievable. LaVine lived up to the hype in his 2015 debut, stunning the crowd with a reverse between-the-legs dunk to open the competition (my personal favorite of LaVine's dunks and the wallpaper for my cell phone for several months following the competition). His second attempt, an around-the-back jam, earned him another perfect score. LaVine closed out the win to hoist the Dunk Contest trophy in his rookie season, but the real fireworks would come in his match-up against capable opponent Aaron Gordon. To the many that complained that Gordon deserved to win the 2016 Slam Dunk contest I simply remind you of this fact; LaVine nailed both a windmill dunk and a between-the-legs jam leaping from the free-throw line in back-to-back attempts. This might have been the proudest I have ever been to be a Minnesotan in my life, and certainly was one of the most impressive displays of athleticism by any human being ever. Hopefully reconstructive anetrior collateral ligament (ACL) surgery will not rob the world of more trips to the Dunk Contest from LaVine, who is a perfect two for two in his two All-Star Weekend visits.

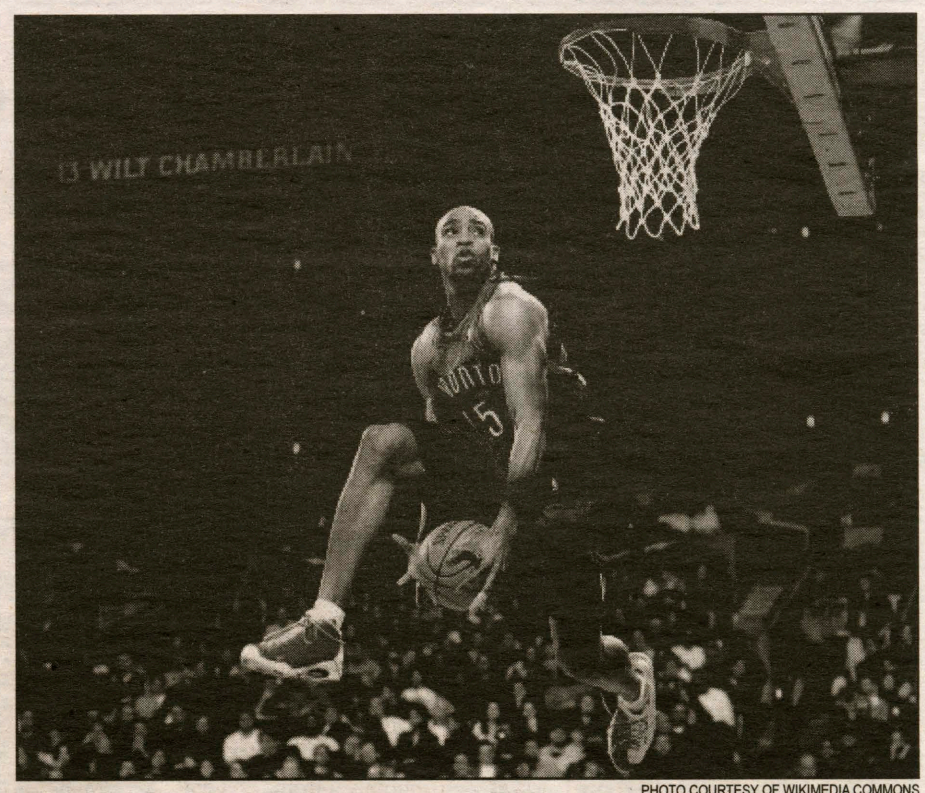


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Vince Carter is one of the all-time greats in dunk contest history.

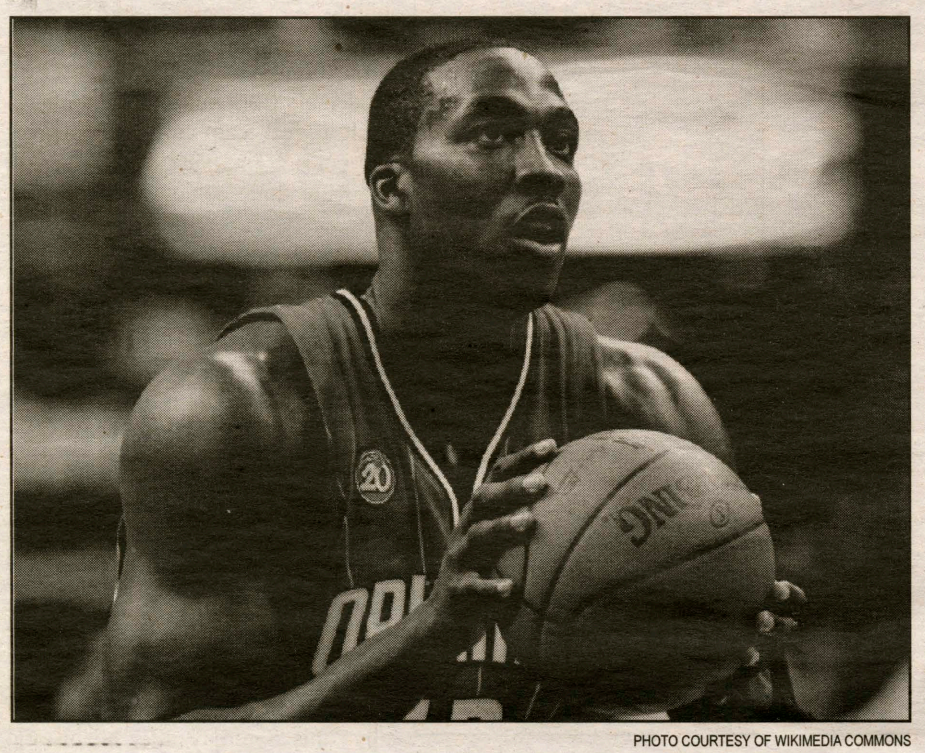


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Dwight Howard's Superman cape alley-oop won him the 2008 contest.

2. Vince Carter

Vince Carter comes in at number two on my list with just one appearance in a Slam Dunk Contest, proving how incredibly breathtaking and revolutionary his victory in 2000 truly was. It takes a lot to force Kenny Smith to exclaim "let's go home!" after just one dunk, but Carter's opener in the 2000 Slam Dunk Contest certainly warranted the ecstatic response. Carter explodes towards the hoop, spins 360 degrees against the grain, and throws down a clean windmill jam to get NBA stars from Kevin Garnett to Shaquille O'Neal out of their seats. Carter closed out the competition by nailing four more glorious dunks, including a perfect score on his trademark "honeydip" where he put his entire forearm in the basket and hung onto the rim with his elbow. Carter's 2000 exhibition was so transcendent that media outlets continue to publish extensive analyses of that night (see story on *The Ringer* this week), labelling it as the most dominant Dunk Contest performance of all time. It's simply a hard claim to argue, with an absurd amount of innovation, style, and amplitude to combine for the perfect evening of high-flying dunking. Unfortunately, Carter would never return to the Slam Dunk Contest, arguably making his lone appearance all the more memorable and fascinating.

1. Jason Richardson

Although Warriors' guard Jason Richardson was never a real standout player in the NBA, his ability to mesmerize viewers in three NBA Slam Dunk Contest appearances was undeniable. Coming off the Oscar-snub "Like Mike" movie, I tuned into my first dunk contest in 2002, mainly I will admit, to see Bow Wow perform during the festivities. With the 2002 dunking title on the line, Richardson uncorked what today remains my favorite dunk contest effort. Needing a score of 45 to secure victory, Richardson tossed himself the ball, collected it with both hands, and performed a two-handed windmill while facing away from the basket to bring the whole arena to its feet. It is impossible to describe the flare that Richardson executes this dunk with, so I thoroughly recommend searching the clip on YouTube; I promise, it will be time well spent. The world was treated to another all-time great performance in 2003 when Richardson repeated as Slam Dunk champion. Every dunk Richardson threw can be described by the word tattooed on his left arm: "nasty." Richardson needed a perfect score to win the contest on his final dunk, and delivered on a left-handed, reverse between-the-legs jam that was oozing style and amplitude. Although he was not able to emerge as champion in 2004, Richardson's off-the-glass, between-the-legs self-alley-oop (what a mouthful) was a dunk no one had ever dreamed of witnessing. Richardson may not be the most recognizable name in Dunk Contest history, but his style, explosiveness off the floor, and in-air creativity remain unparalleled.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
February 15, 2018

Men's basketball knocks off fifth-ranked Middlebury, earns three seed in playoffs

by Matt Cappelletti '21
Contributing Writer

	1	2	F
#5 Middlebury	32	51	83
#15 Hamilton	**38**	**64**	**102**

	1	2	F
#8 Williams	**41**	**40**	**81**
#15 Hamilton	41	26	67

	1	2	F
SUNY Cobleskill	18	33	51
#15 Hamilton	**40**	**44**	**84**

The Hamilton men's basketball team wrapped up their regular season with an unsurprising 84-51 victory against SUNY-Cobleskill on Tuesday night. The Continentals have had a thrilling season and look to build a winning streak as they head into the coference postseason. This Saturday, Hamilton will host six-seed Tufts at 3 p.m.

The Continentals have now been ranked in the *D3hoops.com* poll for seven consecutive weeks, and currently hold the spot at No. 15 in the nation. With an overall record of 21-3, the Continentals have captured another 20-win season (the 17th 20-win season in program history).

Last weekend, Hamilton knew they had their work cut out for them. The first game of the weekend drew a crowd of nearly 1,000 against the now-nationally fifth-ranked ranked Middlebury Panthers, who had previously been ranked No. 1 in the NESCAC standings. The Continentals rolled by the Panthers with a 102-83 victory, thanks to Kena Gilmour '20's 29-point performance and contributions from several bench players. Hamilton shot 52.5 percent from the field and 62.5 percent from three-point land.

When asked about what has contributed to the Continentals' success this season, Mark Lutz '20 commented, "A big part of our team's success has been our depth. Our ability to go deep into our bench keeps fresh legs on the court, which helps us play faster than other teams and wear them down."

After the win on Friday night, Hamilton faced off with eighth-ranked Williams for their final conference game of the regular season on Saturday afternoon. The quick turnaround after an extraordinary effort less than a day before was a tough task for the Continentals, and they fell to the Ephs 81-67.

Despite the loss on Saturday, the Continentals took the third seed heading into the playoffs due to a five-way tie for first place. Amherst, Williams, Hamilton, Wesleyan and Middlebury all finished the season with NESCAC conference records of 7-3.

PHOTO BY VICTOR LOU '21

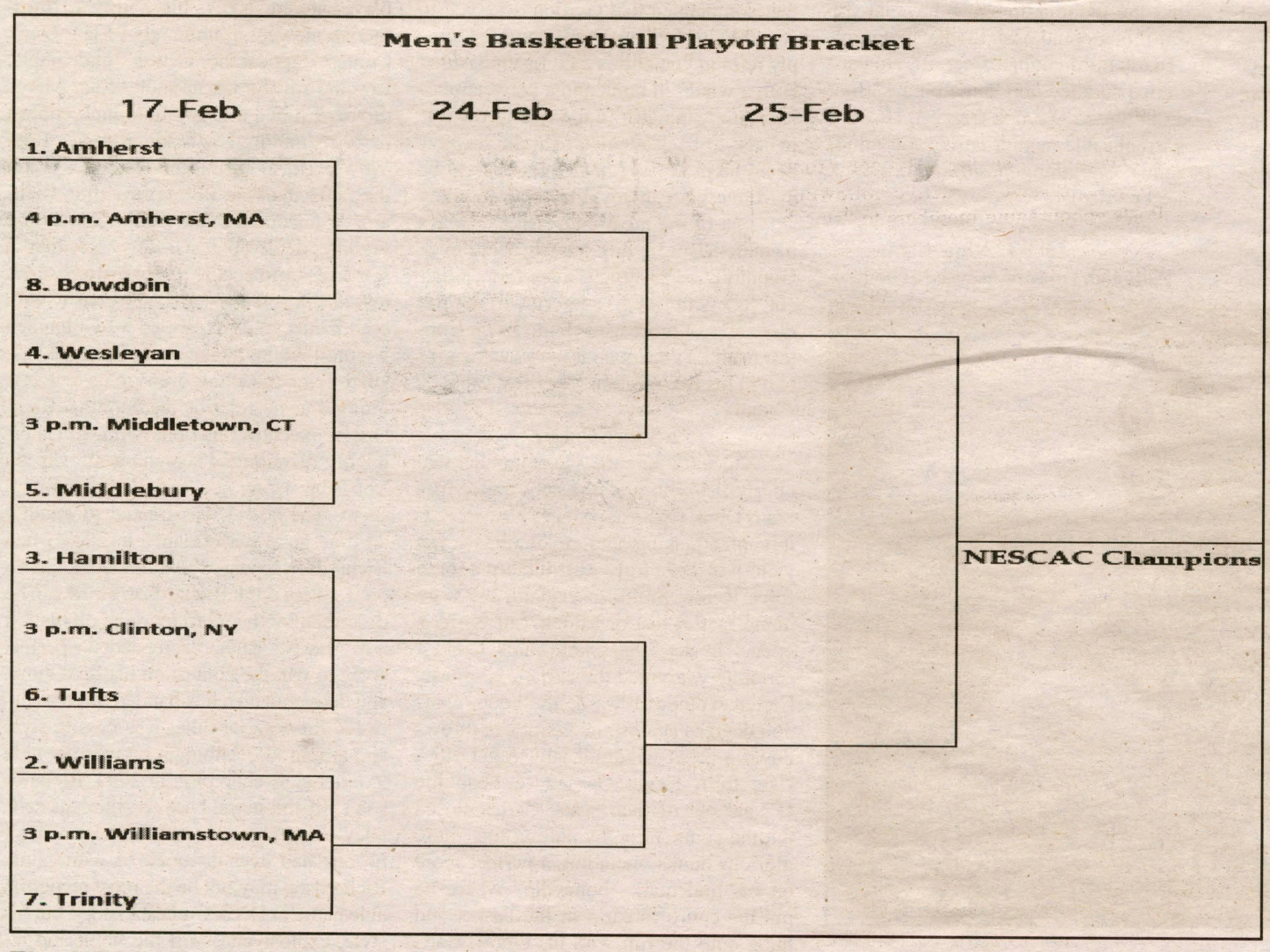
Andrew Groll '19 sets up for a free-throw attempt against Middlebury.

Heading into their game against Tufts, the Continentals have plenty of confidence. Hamilton is ranked 19th in scoring offense for Division III teams this season, putting up an average of 88.4 points per game. Their shooting percentage for the season is 46.1 percent and 37.4 percent from beyond the arc. Gilmour averages 17.4 points per game, 7 rebounds per game, and 1.7 steals per game (leads team in every category). Peter Hoffman '19 adds over 13 points-per-game and shoots over 50 percent from the field. Hoffman reached the 1,000-point milestone in the Continentals' win on Tuesday night.

Lutz adds, "It's a very tight-knit group of guys because of the unselfish leadership from our seniors. We have built a great team culture on and off the court." This year, Hamilton will graduate three seniors. Jack Dwyer '18, Joe Pucci '18, and Matthew Moros '18 have all taken major steps with the Hamilton Basketball program and look to go out on top this winter.

Since joining the NESCAC for basketball during the 2011-12 season, the Continentals are hosting a playoff game for the first time. Lutz commented on the teams hopes for the postseason: "Our team motto from the beginning of the year has been 'Why Not?' meaning Why Not Us? …and we break every huddle with that."

The Continentals have drawn immense support from students and faculty on campus this winter and they look to keep their postseason hopes alive this Saturday after an historic regular season.



The NESCAC men's basketball playoffs commence this Saturday with the quarterfinal round.